Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOEE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 HA-05 /134 W

O R 231440Z JUN 78 FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2855 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

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TAGS: ENRG MNUC PARM TECH BR GW NL UK SUBJECT: NON-PROLIFERATION: DUTCH PARLIAMENT ASKED TO SUPPORT URENCO URANIUM SALES TO BRAZIL

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 3400, (B) THE HAGUE 3401

SUMMARY: SINCE THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SUPPLY BY URENCO OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL, IT HAS BEGUN LOBBYING INTENSIVELY TO DEVELOP SOME FORM OF PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE DECISION. AS OF NOW, IT APPEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY

1. ON JUNE 20 THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT SENT A LETTER TO PARLIAMENT CONFIDENTIAL.

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WHICH OUTLINED THE STEPS IT HAD TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH A PARLIA-MENTARY MOTION REQUIRING IT TO SEEK GREATER SAFEGUARDS IN THE URENCO CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL. THE LETTER CONTAINED A DECLARATION WHICH WOULD ACCOMPANY THE EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES COMMITTING THE URENCO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO THE SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL. HOWEVER, THE DECLARATION, WHICH STATED THE INTENTION OF THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOWARD

EITHER AN INTERNATIONAL OR AD HOC SYSTEM OF PLUTONIUM SAFE-GUARDS, MET WITH STATEMENTS OF DISAPPOINTMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY TEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (CDA) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO ARE ON RECORD AS FAVORING TOUGHER SAFEGUARDS THAN CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSED DECLARATION (REFTELS).

- 2. IT NOW APPEARS THAT NEITHER THE OPPOSITION NOR THE TEN UNCOMMITTED CDA'ERS EXPECT THA GOVERNMENT TO FALL ON THE URENCO ISSUE. THE SOCIALIST (PVDA) OPPOSITION WOULD PROBABLY BE CONTENT WITH A SERIES OF TWO MOTIONS: THE FIRST, CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT DECISION, TO PASS; AND THE SECOND, A MOTION OF NOCONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, TO FAIL. THIS SOLUTION, MENTIONED REF A, WOULD PLEASE THE PVDA BY DEMONSTRATING ITS ABILITY TO SPLIT THE CDA.
- 3. CDA PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADER ASNTJES APPEARS TO BE LOOKING FOR A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY PREVENT A SPLIT IN THE CDA BUT ALSO SPARE THE GOVERNMENT THE EMBARRASSMENT OF HAVING TO FACE A MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE. FOLLOWING A MAJOR CDA PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING LAST NIGHT, AANTJES SOUNDED OPTIMISTIC, REMARKING THAT A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES FOR A SOLUTION EXISTED. ACCORDING TO LIBERAL SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER PORTHEINE, COSPONSOR OF THE VAN HOUWELINGEN MOTION CALLING FOR GREATER SAFEGUARDS, COALITION PARTNERS ARE PREPARING A NEW MOTION WHICH WOULD ENDORSE GOVERNMENT ACTION BUT AT SAME TIME MAKE NOD IN

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DIRECTION OF PREVIOUS PARLIAMENTARY ACTION BY CALLING UPON GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT FULL SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE IN PLACE BY TIME BRAZILIAN REPROCESSING PLANT WAS COMPLETED. OTHER SOURSES NOTE THAT THE NEW MOTION MAY CALL FOR A UNILATERAL DUTCH DECLARATION FOR RENEWED EFFORTS FOR GREATER SAFEGUARDS, TO BE MADE PUBLIC ON THE OCCASION OF ISSUING THE URANIUM EXPORT LICENSE.

4. HOWEVER, THE NATURE OF THE EVENTUAL COMPROMISE IS UNCERTAIN. THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ITS INTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH COALITION SECOND CHAMBER MEMBERS OVER THE WEEKEND. NON-PROLIFERATION EXPERT AND PREVIOUS OPPONENT OF URENCO AT PRESTIGIOUS DUTCH THINK-TANK, INSTITUTE FOR PEACE QUESTIONS, HAS SENT LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF SECOND CHAMBER URGING APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT ACTION AS BEST AND ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY FOR DUTCH TO WORK TO PREVENT FURTHER NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. THE LETTER HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE HELPFUL IMPACT, ACCORDING TO PORTHEINE. THEKEY CDA FACTION IS NOT EXPECTED TO DECIDE ITS POSITION BEFORE MEETING PRECEDING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE JUNE 27. THE FINAL VOTE IS NOW EXPECTED THURSDAY, JUNE 29. BROWN

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